

Remarks/Arguments

This Amendment is in response to the Official Action mailed January 25, 2005.

In the January 25, Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 6-8, 11, & 13-16 under 102(b) as anticipated by Duley (US Pat. 6,426,153). These claims have been cancelled.

Additionally, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 7-8, 10, and 14-16, under 102(b) as anticipated by Durand (US Pat. 5,966,813). These claims have likewise been cancelled, but elements contained in claims 1 and 3 have been recast as a part of new claims 17-20.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1, 2, and 6 under 102(b) as anticipated by Tietz.(US Pat. 2,471,663). These claims have been cancelled, however, elements of these claims have been recast as a part of new claims 17-20.

Lastly, claims 5, 9, and 12 were rejected under 103(a) as being obvious in light of a combination of Duley, Tietz and Durand. Claims 5, 9, and 12 have been cancelled.

New claims 17-20 recast elements of original claims 2, 3, 6, and 7.

Claim 17 is directed to a method of forming a multi-metallic article wherein the respective differing metallic elements are magnetically pulse welded one to the other edgewise to form a multi-metallic blank prior to being formed into a multi-metallic article. The resulting combination of steps is neither known nor obvious in light of the art of record.

The primary reference to Duley is directed to laser welding sheets prior to forming. Where differing metals are used, as claimed in new Claim 17, Duley uses a “plastics material” between the differing materials or maintains integrity of the multi-metallic blank through “mechanically locked” elements protruding from one into the other. (See col. 5, lines 45-end, to col. 6, line 18, of Duley). When the foregoing is not suitable, a frictional relation between the parts may be used between compatible shapes of parts.

None of Duley discloses or suggests the claimed magnetic pulse welding of differing metals of the present method.

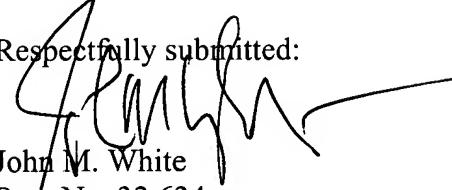
Durand discloses the use of magnetic pulse welding to fixedly assemble frame elements made of differing materials. Notably the differing materials are not fused one to the other. Rather, respective frame elements comprised of differing materials are placed in position so that a ring element may be collapsed around juxtaposed or overlapped compatibly shaped portions of the frame elements and maintain a fixed orientation between the respective elements. Magnetic pulse welding in Durand is not used to join differing materials directly as presently claimed.

The remaining reference to Tietz is directed to creating cladded objects used in food service. Magnetic pulse welding is not disclosed or suggested therein. Instead, the Tietz patent primarily relies on heat and pressure to bond the face-to-face positioned sheets which are thereafter formed into cooking articles..

Applicant respectfully seeks reconsideration and allowance of the referenced application in light of the foregoing amendments and argument. In the event a telephone

interview would prove useful to resolve any outstanding issues, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted:


John M. White
Reg. No. 32,634
Belenato White & Stavish
PO Box 315
Waterford, Va. 20197
Ph 540 882 3569
Virginia Office